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E D I T O R I A L .

As everyone knows, ufology is an exceedingly complex topic, in which some aspects will of greater interest to some enquirers than others. An editor of a journal such as this has to balance the contents of each issue as best he can to provide a variety of articles to suit all readerships, especially when that readership is largely composed of paying members. Those readers who have lately written to me asking whether or not it would be possible to include more actual sighting reports will understand this. Thus, while making no excuses at all for presenting relatively few ufo reports in some recent issues, I am equally unrepentant about including a large number of reports in this issue of AWARENESS. Perhaps somebody somewhere will be satisfied. And, remember, it takes much time checking out reports, so we like to present authentic material only.

The Editor.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURES

All Contact (UK) members should note that the committee expects to hold the 1974 Annual General Meeting either in May or during the September/October period later this year. The exact date, which will be a Saturday, will be fixed immediately a suitable venue has been found. The venue will be in London; but halls capable of comfortably accommodating the present greatly increased membership of Contact (UK) are not too plentiful or are otherwise already booked during the months in question. At present, several possible alternative venues are under consideration, so hopefully a date and venue can be announced soon. This announcement, accompanied by all other relevant details, will be made by circular as soon as matters are finalized.

A major feature of this year's meeting will be the two major lectures delivered after conclusion of the main business of the A.G.M. The lecturers will be Contact International's president, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, and the editor of The UFO Register, J. Bernard Delair. The aspects of ufology these speakers intend discussing are most exciting, and should promote lively debates afterwards.

Another feature of the event will be the book exhibitions promised by several leading publishers in the ufo field, and by specialist agents for ufo publications.

Light refreshments will be to hand, so, all in all, this very much looks like being a really splendid occasion---not only on which to look and listen, but also on which to meet many old friends, make new ones, and exchange news and ideas.

Admission to the A.G.M. will only be by presentation of a current membership card, so, if you intend being present, make quite sure you have yours ready on arrival. The lectures and subsequent informal part of the meeting will be open to members and non members alike. All will be most welcome. Readers may care to know that parties from Rochdale, Wales and other far flung places have already promised to attend, so everyone ought to attend if only to get to know one another.

D.N.Mansell.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

If you intend to do so, but have not yet done so, please re-new your annual subscriptions as soon as possible. Remember, if you wish to attend the forthcoming A.G.M. you must hold a current membership card, else you may be refused admission.

All subscriptions should be sent direct to The Treasurer, Mr D.N.Mansell, 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, near Oxford, OX2 9PU.

F.Passey.

CLOSE THE WATERGATE, THOSE DARNED UFOS ARE RUNNING AMUCK!

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by
Lionel Beer.

It was probably inevitable that amateur psychologists and scientists, who ought to know better, would link UFOs with the Watergate scandal. The theory runs like this: "During a period of political and economic stress, people invent their own forms of escapism, which leads to near psychosis". This theory conveniently ignores the fact that major UFO flaps have also occurred in relatively placid periods. A parallel naivety has been statements made in the Soviet Union to the effect that "Flying saucers are an invention of the Western Bureaucrats to distract the minds of the workers from the hard lives they lead".

During October 1973, the GUARDIAN, DAILY MAIL, THE SUN, and Dublin EVENING HERALD, amongst others, all carried short snippets about sensational UFO activity in the U.S.A. When the U.K. national presses report UFO sightings in another country, in unison, you can be fairly sure that there is a pretty big flap going on there! This preamble is one way of saying that 1973 seems to have been a very lively year for Stateside ufologists and saucer buffs.

Strangely enough, interest earlier in the year was partly triggered off by a non-event, which seems to have got out of hand. Once upon a time....in the woeful year of 1897, the Texas hamlet of Aurora was having a lean time. The Dallas MORNING NEWS of April 19th 1897 reported that an "Airship" had been seen approaching Aurora at low altitude at 6.00am. on 17th April. It passed over the town square, and on towards a small hill owned by Judge Proctor. As it passed over the judge's yard, it struck a wooden tower over his well and exploded violently. The report goes on to say that a badly disfigured body of a man about four feet tall was found, and buried quickly in the Aurora cemetery the following day. In mid-1973, a mysterious Frank Kelly visited the site of the crash and provoked the press into taking up this old story. A UFO group in Oklahoma kept the interest going, and were pressing for the alleged body to be exhumed, although the exact grave site was not certain. Saucer buffs and curio hunters invaded the town, trampled over private property, even removing gravestones, and thoroughly upset the local population who did not want their graveyard turned over. The actual description of the "Airship" in the Dallas MORNING NEWS does not tie in with other contemporary accounts and was probably a hoax designed to provoke outside interest in the town. If the cemetery were to be dug up, several small skeletons might be found. Many of the graves contain the bodies of children killed by the local typhoid epidemic in the same year as the supposed crash.

But even before the Aurora business hit the headlines, a rash of reports in Cherokee County, South Carolina, began in January 1973, some of which included close encounters. One couple even reported two separate encounters. The second time the UFO came so close that the husband exclaimed "Well this is it. They're coming to pick us up". Other UFO waves included one in Georgia in September, and press men took numerous photographs and even some movie film of some coloured aerial lights.

The most sensational event seems to have occurred around dusk by the Pascagoula river on 11th October. Two shipyard workers, Calvin Parker, 18, and

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Charles Hickson, 42, had been fishing for catfish from a ramp in an old shipyard in the small shipbuilding town of Pascagoula, Mississippi. They saw an elongated egg-shaped object surrounded by a blue haze come towards them over the water and land on the river bank behind them. The "spacecraft" grew a door, and three creatures emerged and drifted towards them. The press seized on the point that the beings had crab-like hands. One report even says they were webbed. The descriptions vary, and perhaps became more dramatic with the telling? Anyway, the creatures were said to have had wizened or wrinkled skin, pointed ears, lipless mouths, slits for eyes, and possibly only one leg. Mr Parker fainted at the sight of them, but Charles Hickson stayed put until a creature touched him and apparently made him weightless. Both men were then taken into the "spacecraft" and given some kind of examination by a machine. They were not harmed, and were returned to the pier, whereupon the UFO flew off into the night. Twelve other witnesses affirm seeing this craft. Both men were obviously very shaken by their experience, and were questioned for four hours under hypnosis by Dr.J.Allen Hynek of Northwestern University and Dr.James Harder (an APRO consultant) of Mississippi University. Both scientists agreed that the shipyard workers had relived the events under hypnosis, and had had a very unusual experience.

The governor of Ohio, John Gilligan, and his wife, reported watching a vertical amber light or object on the night of October 15th for about half an hour. Police patrolmen also reported sightings. One claimed that his car was attacked by an "orange-reddish flying object", and was very shaken.

At Slidell, on Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana, Lloyd Mercier reported an object 15 feet across which was glowing red. At Falkville, Alabama, patrolman Jeff Greenshaw went after a UFO only to encounter a metallic-looking creature with no facial features and a pointed head standing in the middle of the road. The creature moved like a robot, and began running when Greenshaw started to photograph it. "But", Greenshaw afterwards said, "I couldn't even catch up with him in my patrol car".

And so it goes on....

Not all the foregoing details are guaranteed authentic, as they have been abstracted from our national press, but at least you should get a taste of the recent excitement in the United States during 1973.

As a kind of spin-off from the above mentioned UFO activity in the U.S.A., it may be worth adding here that, in November, an eight-week course on UFOs was being offered at Gordon College, in Barnesville, Georgia, given by Bruce Henne, a psychiatrist with no time for cynics.

SOME NOTES ON THE AURORA (TEXAS) INCIDENT OF APRIL 1897.

by

J.B.Delair.

In view of the reference to the so-called "Aurora Airship crash" in the above article, this may be an appropriate place to add a few more details about this intriguing episode of 78 years ago. As Mr Beer as so correctly pointed out, the press, even in those days, tended to publish conflictory

details, so that it is now very difficult to decide which particular pieces of information are the most correct factually. Nevertheless, after sifting through most of the surviving accounts dating from 1897 sent to us from various sources and American investigators, it would appear that the following version which appeared in the DALLAS MORNING NEWS of April 18th., 1897, is probably the most correct. The account was originally written by S.E.Hayden, a cotton-buyer and newspaper correspondent of the time.

"About 6.0'clock this morning (April 17th) the early risers of Aurora (Texas) were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country."

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the town of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden".

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world."

"T.J.Weems, the U.S. signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars."

"Papers found on his person --- evidently the records of his travels --- are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power".

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathered specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow".

Contemporary newspaper accounts of this incident appeared in the following issues of the DALLAS MORNING NEWS:

- a) Thursday, April 15th, 1897, p.4.
- b) Friday, April 16th., 1897, p.5.
- c) Saturday, April 17th., 1897, p.8.
- d) Sunday, April 18th., 1897, p.4 (as above).
- e) Monday, April 19th., 1897, p.5.
- f) Wednesday, April 21st., 1897, pp.6-7.

The newspaper accounts of April 15th and 16th record the sightings just before those dates of the same or similar "airships" over various regions of the U.S.A. At this juncture it is certainly worth mentioning that an aerial object generally described as being like a "luminous cigar" had been seen on April 9th., 1897 over Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin. A brief general account of these sightings appeared in J.Guieu's "Flying Saucers Come from Another World", 1956, p.206, and in Flying Saucer Review, vol. 14, no:5, 1968, pp.14-16, where the various reports are discussed in greater detail. Some of these same reports were again reviewed by Donald B.Hanlon in a later issue of the same journal (Flying Saucer Review, vol.16, no:4, 1970)

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and, more recently, by Le Poer Trench ("The Eternal Subject", 1973) and John Magor (Canadian UFO Report, vol.2, no:7, 1973, p.30) to note only a few.

The surviving records of observations of "airship"-like objects in the skies of America during 1896-1897 are indeed most interesting, for these show that one of the greatest concentrations of sightings occurred on April 16th -- just one day before the reported "crash" at Aurora. The reports for April 16th., 1897, if set out chronologically (as they are below), make very interesting reading. For reference purposes, these reports have been distinguished by capital letters in parenthesis.

- (A) 00.30hours. Big Bay, Michigan. Cigar-shaped cloud.
- (B) c.00.45hours. Essexville, Michigan. Cigar-shaped cloud.
- (C) 02.45hours. Astor, Wisconsin. "Airship".
- (D) 02.00hours. Jefferson, Wisconsin. "Airship".
- (E) Early a.m. (exact hour unrecorded). Charlotte, Michigan. "Airship".
- (F) Early a.m. (exact hour unrecorded). Saginaw, Michigan. Cigar-shaped cloud which moved north extremely fast.
- (G) P.M. (exact hour unrecorded). Pittsford, Michigan. Cigar-shaped cloud.
- (H) P.M. (exact hour unrecorded). Clayton, Michigan. Cigar-shaped cloud.
- (I) P.M. (exact hour unrecorded). Ann Arbor, Michigan. Cigar-shaped cloud.
- (J) P.M. (exact hour unrecorded). Three Rivers, Michigan. "Airship".
- (K) 20.30hours. Mount Vernon, Illinois. Giant-sized humanshaped flyer.
- (L) P.M. (unrecorded late hour). Bailey, Michigan. "Airship"; said to have been 200 feet in length.

For full details of these sightings readers should consult Flying Saucer Review, vol.14, no:6, 1968, pp.6-7. Of special interest is the fact that in chapter 12 of the late Charles Fort's book "Lo!" an account is given of a very similar giant humanshaped flyer observed over Brooklyn, New York, on September 18th., 1877. Note should also be taken of Ann Arbor, a small town which, in 1966, was intimately associated with ufo landings witnessed by scores of unimpeachable individuals and the now notorious "swamp gas" explanation. The presence in 1897 of "airship"-like objects over and near Ann Arbor may well be an item of considerable significance, particularly in view of the propensity of some ufos to repeatedly visit certain localities or sites.

On April 17th., the day of the Aurora "crash", aerial objects of a general cigar-shape were seen at 3.00 a.m. over Grand Rapids, Michigan, where it was watched moving from West to North (Flying Saucer Review, vol.14, no:6, 1968, p.7); at an unrecorded hour in the afternoon of that day, just north of Saline (also in Michigan), where it was seen moving West against the wind (ibid.); and about 8.30 p.m. at Saginaw, Michigan, where it was observed moving North, and simultaneously at Manistique, also in Michigan, from where it was seen proceeding towards the West (ibid.).

During the evening (exact time unrecorded) of April 21st., 1897, an object described as an "airship" with a light at each end, appeared over Jackson, in Michigan (ibid.), while the following day, at 11.0 p.m., a similar object was watched from Hemlock moving South at a "fearful rate of speed" (ibid.).

On April 24th., 1897, an "airship", recorded in contemporary newspapers as having been repeatedly seen in the South Haven area of Michigan for two weeks before that date, was observed from Omer, near South Haven (Flying Saucer Re-

view, vol.15, no:1, 1969, p.26). The following evening (exact hour unrecorded) Leonard and Henry Krause reported an "unknown object" in the sky over Freeland, again in Michigan (ibid.), while at approximately 11.0 p.m. on April 26th., a "cigar-shaped" object was seen over Booth's Mill at Sidaw, and near Dayton, Ohio, from which latter locality observers reported three "human-looking occupants" in a lighted "basket" immediately below the main body of the object (ibid.). The same or a similar "cigar-shaped" object, this time with a whirling tail, was seen at 11.30 p.m. a few days later --- on April 29th., to be precise --- over Holton, Michigan (ibid.).

Finally, another aerial object reported as having the shape of an "Airship", was seen during the night (exact time unrecorded) of September 13th or 14th., 1897, over Gravel River, Ontario, Canada ("The Hamilton Spectator", 14.9.1897; also see "Saucers, Space, and Science" magazine, no:49, 1967, p.11), which, as well as performing various unusual manoeuvres, also carried approximately 18 blue, red, and white lights.

These records show that the Aurora incident occurred during a very active period for "airships" and cigar-shaped" objects in American skies, so, on that score, there is nothing very remarkable about the occurrence of such an object over or at Aurora at that time. Neither should one be especially sceptical of the authenticity of the whole Aurora affair (as some have already suggested) merely because Aurora is geographically a long way from the Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin region, since in 1896, only a year previously, an essentially similar "airship" had been seen as far west as Oakland, California, an event dating from November 22nd. (J.Guieu: "Flying Saucers Come from Another World", p.206).

These same reports also show that "airship"-like objects continued to fly in American skies after the date of the Aurora "crash", from which it can only be concluded that there were at least two such objects active over the U.S.A. during the 1896-1897 period, and that although one such object reportedly came to grief at Aurora in April 1897, the other (or others) continued to operate until at least the September of that year (see Gravel River, Ontario, report). Neither should it be overlooked that, just over a decade later, a whole series of observations were made of essentially identical objects not only over the U.S.A. but also over other continents (see John A.Keel: 1971. "Operation Trojan Horse": see Abacus edition, 1973, pp.107-121).

Beer's statement (see page 3 supra) that a certain Frank Kelly succeeded in resurrecting the entire Aurora affair in mid-1973 is not, however, strictly accurate, for although such a person did indeed visit Aurora then and succeed in interesting the local press in it, recent interest in the incident dates back to at least January 4th., 1967. On that date the DALLAS MORNING NEWS carried an article headed "Did Plane Crash in Texas in 1897?"

Neither can March 28th., 1973, be strictly regarded as mid-1973, for it was on that date that the next press reference (in the DALLAS TIMES HERALD) to the Aurora "airship" occurred --- in an article headed "Aurora's old-timers 'thinking over' UFO", which clearly indicates that interest in the subject had already been roused by that date. These, however, are comparatively minor points and certainly in no way detract from Beer's other statement that quite frenzied activity centred on Aurora took place in the summer of 1973. This activity is faithfully reflected in the headings of articles dealing with the Aurora event

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published between late March 1973 and mid-June 1973, as the following list of chronologically arranged headings indicate. In this list the DALLAS MORNING NEWS and the DALLAS TIMES HERALD are abbreviated to DMN and DTH respectively. The previously mentioned January 1967 article is added for completeness.

4.1.1967 DMN. "Did Plane Crash in Texas in 1897?"
28.3.1973. DTH. "Aurora's old-timers 'thinking over' UFO".
1.4.1973. DMN. "Team Seeks Parts of UFO".
15.4.1973. DTH. "'97 UFO Tale Gains Support".
20.5.1973. DTH. "Silence Broken on UFO Crash".
21.5.1973. DMN. "Tolbert's Texas".
23.5.1973. DTH. "UFO Unit Wants Body Exhumed".
24.5.1973. DMN. "UFO Bureau to Seek Exhumation of 'Astronaut'".
25.5.1973. DMN. "Residents Stand Vigil at Grave".
25.5.1973. DTH. "UFO Searchers Go 'underground' in Texas".
29.5.1973. DTH. "2 Narrow Hunt for UFO Pilot's Grave".
31.5.1973. DTH. "UFO Site Metal Described as 'puzzling', 'unusual'".
1.6.1973. DTH. "Pioneer Recalls Hearing of Crash".
3.6.1973. DTH. "Aurora UFO Site Probe Near Climax".
6.6.1973. DTH. "'UFO' Alloy Unknown Back in '97".
7.6.1973. DTH. "More UFO Clues Sought".
10.6.1973. DTH. "UFO 'pilot' Gone but not Forgotten".
10.6.1973. DTH. "UFO Experts Squabble".
11.6.1973. DMN. "Tolbert's Texas".

In addition to the above, reference should also be made to the NICAP UFO INVESTIGATOR for June 1973, which, in an article headed "Possible Grave of 'Airship' Pilot Sought in Old Texas Cowtown", reviews most of the developments in this case up to that date. Various other magazines have referred to the Aurora incident in passing, and often giving erroneous details.

The Bureau mentioned in the heading of the article dated 25th May above was the International UFO Bureau, whose director, Hayden Hewes", eventually prepared a full report in which he said:

"It is the opinion of the Bureau that the entire story is not a hoax, that in fact something was observed, but no evidence has been presented to establish the identification of what the object was or what grave the 'alien' is buried in, if there was an occupant".

Appended to Hewes's article was a statement from L.C.MacAulay of Canada's National Aeronautical Establishment, on five pieces of metal found at the alleged site of the "crash" and regarded as possibly being parts of the disintegrated "airship", and afterwards sent by Crawley Films of Ottawa to the N.A.E. The statement concluded:

"In summary, the materials supplied to N.A.E.Structures and Materials by representatives of Crawley Films Ltd., possess no unusual structural properties and are most certainly not of unusual composition".

In conclusion, therefore, it remains somewhat uncertain as to whether the five pieces of metal submitted for analysis really had anything at all to do with the Aurora "crash" or were ever a part of the "airship", even though some interesting circumstantial evidence exists that such an "airship" did visit, and perhaps crash at, Aurora almost 78 years ago.

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL BRANCH REPORTSNo: 1 -- YUGOSLAVIA.

by

Vincent Strmenik.

The following reports of unidentified flying objects sighted over Yugoslavia are restricted from October 12th., 1973 to December 16th., 1973, and form the first in a regular series of branch reports. The details have been abstracted from local Yugoslavian papers or were received direct by CONTACT YUGOSLAVIA.

Case 1: PIRAN; 12th October.

Many inhabitants of this Slovenian coastal city who have seen ufos recently are insisting that they have already seen them many times in the past over the Bay of Triest. On the above date, a very large, elongated, cigar-shaped UFO was seen here below cloud-level, at an approximate altitude of 4,000 feet, flying at great speed towards the South. Observers agree in this, as well as in the fact that a row of windows occurred along the length of the object; but they do not agree as to its colour. Some say it was a shiny bluish-metallic colour; whereas others stipulate that it was a yellowish-red colour. Also, some reported that the UFO left behind it a shower of sparks or a beam of fire, while others say it left a trail of white smoke-like matter which, unlike the trails of jet aeroplanes, did not remain in the sky for long, but soon disappeared.

Some people reported that the UFO flew without any noise, but others say that it emitted a swishing sound and cause a cold feeling to run through their bodies. But all do agree that it did fly very quickly, and that all of a sudden it became very small and disappeared as if it had taken off vertically at fantastic speed. At least one news reporter was of the opinion that the northern Adriatic has, for a reason, become interesting for UFOs.

Case 2: LJUBIJANO; October (exact date unrecorded).

During the evening, when the toughest fighting in the Middle East war was in progress, two policemen saw, over this town, a great ball of fire which moved for a while in one direction, and then in another. They went to a nearby factory to get in touch by telephone with their headquarters, and even showed the UFO to the two watchmen then on duty at the factory. But the object soon disappeared.

Case 3: VELENJE; 5th December.

Girls in the offices of the biggest household appliances factory in Yugoslavia --- Gorenje --- had been observing that morning a round, brilliantly shining object, which was hovering over the hills east of Velenje. The girls, who numbered four, watched the object through the window of the typing office, and all reported that in a little while the airliner which was on a scheduled flight (for there is an international air corridor running close to this locality) appeared and approached the object; it made a turn round it and proceeded on its way. Some time later, when the girls again looked out of their

window again, the object had gone. It is not known whether any report was filed by the airline pilot.

Case 4: SMARTNO; December 11th and 12th (20.30 hours local time).

Pupils of Smartno grade school observed a great ball of fire which moved back and forth like the one seen by police officers at Ljubljana in October (see case 2). They saw the object while going home from afternoon classes. The object suddenly disappeared into "nothingness".

Case 5: SMARTNO; December 13th.

Pupils of Smartno grade school again observed a fiery object moving and wobbling across the Mislunja valley, and watched it until it disappeared behind the nearby mountains.

Case 6: MYSLYNIA VALLEY; December 14th (04.30 hours local time).

The writer of this report (ICM for Contact International - Yugoslavia) lives in the valley near the local airfield, and on the above date heard roars and trembling in the atmosphere, and then, the earth tremours answered in accord. Just the local area was involved --- much as happened two years ago (1971) when only the northern slope of Mt. Ursula rising west from the Myslunja Valley was affected. There is no known geological fault running under this area.

This phenomena opens the question as to whether all earthquakes are indeed caused from below only!

Case 7: SARAJEVO; December 14th.

Members of the Academic Astronomy-Astronautics Society in this town have for some days now been watching a UFO through a telescope, and have obtained 25 photographs of it. Today they issued a statement that the object moves with a constant speed from west to east, and at estimated height of 75,000 feet. Its length is approximately 150 feet. The object, which is not thought to be self-luminous, changes colour from time to time. Yesterday, for example, it was reddish-orange, while today (14th.) it is white.

Case 8: SARAJEVO; December 15th.

Members of the above Society in Sarajevo, have again been watching an unusual cannon-ball shaped body in the sky near this town. It moved very quickly and was of a reddish-orange colour. It remained under observation for 15 minutes.

The members do not dismiss the possibility of it being a UFO, but have also considered that it may be some object that has been sent aloft from the Earth. As yet it has not been identified.

Case 9: TURYSKA VAS; December 16th (21.30 hours local time).

A boy in this village, which is located in the Myslunja Valley, has reported seeing a great ball of fire rotating and hovering over an old, big tree near here. After watching it for a while, he apparently became scared and left (he doesn't admit this, of course, explaining that he had to get home "to go to bed"!).

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL BRANCH REPORTSNo: 2 -- ITALY.

by

Luigi Guarrera.

The following reports of unidentified flying objects over various regions of Italy have been received from Signor Luigi Carrera, our ICM for Contact International (Italy). The reports span the period October 21st to December 24th, 1973. The information has been obtained from various sources, including the press and at first-hand investigation by Italian investigators.

Case 1: ROME; October 21st.

A bright object, passing quickly over this city, from N.W. to S.E., was seen accidentally by Paolo di Girolamo and Luigi Carrera at 6.p.m. on this date. Interestingly Girolamo was in the southern part of the city at the time and Carrera was in the northern part, thus precluding any hoaxing or hallucination in this case. The data secured by these observers was afterwards compared and the component details found to agree to a remarkable degree.

Case 2: GUBBIO; October 23rd.

A circular, greenish coloured object was seen about 8.30pm. on this date over the town of Gubbio, which is situated near Perugia, in Umbria. It stopped and hovered over the small town for several minutes, before racing off towards the north and disappearing.

Case 3: CHIGNOLO D'ISOLA, October 23rd.

The noon edition of the T.V. News, and the press, said that, the day before, all the population of this small village, which is near Bergamo, saw a kind of bright triangle in the sky, which was white in colour but also had three green prominences on it. It remained motionless over a nearby wood, and after half an hour began to change colour, becoming completely red on top. It then glided softly to the ground.

A young man, taking his courage in both hands, ran to see what the object was and what was happening, but he had to stop after about 400 yards as the landed object suddenly became extremely luminous, and forced the young man to return quickly: he said "There's an intolerable light. I can't keep my eyes open"

At 11.35 pm. the object suddenly emitted three small lamp-like devices, of which only guesses could be made as to their actual use. After this the triangular object turned once round itself and dashed off into the sky at fantastic speed.

It should be noted that over the same village three days before, strange lights and objects had been seen by several persons.

Case 4: LA SPEZIA; October 26th.

At 11.30pm., on this date, two small boys saw, from a mountain which dominates this town, a round bright object, white in colour, with a

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strange halo. This is shown in a photograph taken of the ufo, which, furthermore, flew very low over the town, after which it hovered for five minutes over the E.N.E.L. thermoelectric station. This station, incidentally, is the biggest of its kind in Europe. The object then moved off again at the same very high speed as before. During the period when it visited the town, and for more than two hours after its departure, the electric lights there were dimmed, as if there was a large voltage reduction, some roads even being devoid of lighting of any kind.

Case 5: Over LA SPEZIA; October 29.

Another object, very high in the sky, was this day reported over this town. It has not as yet been identified.

Case 6: GUBBIO, PERUGIA, ASSISI, etc.; October 30.

Various unidentified aerial bodies were seen on this date from these places and from villages in their vicinity throughout Umbria. More detailed information is as yet lacking, but investigations are in hand to obtain all available data.

Case 7: ROME; unnoted date in late November.

An actress, a porter, and a barman saw, just after sunset, two fiery globes coming down from the sky at a "terrible speed". The actress fainted with fear at the sight of these objects, which hovered over the witnesses for a few seconds, at very low altitude, before suddenly moving away --- one in one direction, the other in another direction.

Case 8: Near TURIN; December 2.

The pilot of a "Piper" aeroplane claimed, on his return to Earth, to have been followed by a "flying saucer" all the way from Turin airport to the sea. He added, "It was playing hide and seek with me".

Ten other persons, including the airport director, saw the same object from the airport, and it was followed on radar until, climbing into the depths of space, it eventually disappeared. The pilot of an Alitalia DC8, then in the vicinity en route from Paris to Rome, also saw the object.

Case 9: TURIN (Easelle Airport); dates between December 3 and 6.

Between December 3rd and December 6th, objects resembling those commonly called "flying saucers" passed over this airport, and hovered over it on other occasions --- usually at altitudes of about 500 to 700 metres. They were very bright, and of a bluish or violet colour. Many other similar objects were seen throughout the region around Turin during the same period, as well as over the Val d'Acosta. Several photographs are alleged to have been taken of some of these objects.

Television news programmes devoted much time to the phenomena, and also screened a special programme dealing with the objects, during which "experts" were interviewed and the opinions of others expressed. This was particularly interesting inasmuch that Italian television has hitherto always kept silent about ufos. Needless to add, some of the comments were of the usual banal variety.

Case 10:PIEDMONTE REGION; December 4.

A woman, with her two sons, all of whom wish to remain anonymous, saw a ufo land near a wood in this region (exact locality uncertain), and then suddenly take off.

This case is currently under investigation, and we hope shortly to be in a position to present further details.

Case 11:PIEDMONTE REGION; December 5, to approx.December 10.

Three air force fighter planes flew over this region today and into the early hours of the 6th. It seems (but has yet to be officially confirmed) that an O.T.A.N. field-officer visited the Piedmonte area for a special investigation into the ufos reportedly seen recently over it, while, during the same period, a daily radio broadcast (a special regular programme by direct phone (Roma 31-31) with the public to discuss any problem or topic) was thrown into disorder by many calls from people looking at "flying saucers" over their houses. Some people actually described them while talking on the telephone, and watching them directly from their windows. As this is a very popular programme and is broadcast all over Italy, listeners outside the Piedmonte area, must have been greatly surprised.

Although details of the various sightings on this date are still being obtained, it is known that the "wave" of ufo activity extended over Milan and Genoa. The airports at both these towns caught and tracked ufos on their radar screens.

After about December 10th., this ufo activity appears to have died-out in this particular region.

The objects observed over Torino (and Piedmonte, Val d'Aosta), Milan, and throughout the Lombardia region, as well as at Genoa in Liguria, were of very many different shapes, colours, and operated at a great variety of speeds and performed many different kinds of movements. They were also very numerous.

Case 12:ROME; December 24.

Many inhabitants of this city saw, at a great height in the sky, bright bluish-white cylindrical objects. Further details of these potentially interesting observations are currently being sought.

L A T E S T B O O K N E W S A N D R E V I E W S .

by

J.B.Delair.

A considerable series of new books and magazines on ufos and related subjects have appeared, or are about to appear, since the last issue of "Awareness", and the following notes and reviews deal with the more interesting of these.

Beginning with books, Major Donald Keyhoe's long-awaited ALIENS FROM SPACE is now available from Doubleday and Company, while a book simply titled UFOLOGY, by James M.McCampbell, has just been released by the Jaymac Company of

14.

Belmont (12 Bryce Court), California 94002. Henry Regnery & Company have now published Jacques Bergier's EXTRATERRESTRIAL VISITATIONS FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE PRESENT, which, despite its somewhat cumbersome title, is very interesting reading. University Books have just published Peter Kolosimo's TIMELESS EARTH, while Bantam Books have recently produced two notable paperbacks --- Joseph Blumrich's THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL, and Alan and Sally Landsburg's IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT MYSTERIES. The same publishers are shortly bringing out Duncan Lunan's MAN AND THE STARS, a title previously published in the United Kingdom by Souvenir Press. The Exposition Press have recently brought out Jerome Eden's PLANET IN TROUBLE, the theme of which touches upon ufos, and which, as a book, is well worth reading. Souvenir Press also offer a very interesting volume by Ion Hobana and Julien Weverberg called UFOs FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN, which is a "must" for anyone interested in ufology.

Several important or interesting works on ufos are promised shortly, among the most notable of which are Dr Frank Salisbury's UFO DISPLAY OVER UTAH, due out about April from the David-Adair Company, and Brad Steiger's latest book, MYSTERIES FROM TIME AND SPACE. This latter book is scheduled for release in September by Prentice-Hall Inc. In May, Souvenir Press will also be releasing Eric von Daniken's fourth book, IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS, which, we can be sure, will engage everyone's earnest attention.

It is to be hoped that space in future issues of this journal will permit reviews of some, if not all, of the above books.

Our spies also inform us both John Keel and Brinsley Le Poer Trench shortly expect to publish new books, both of which will undoubtedly be eagerly awaited by all fans of these talented writers.

Turning now to magazines, it is with regret that DATA-NET REPORT, which was one of the very best North American ufo magazines, ceased publication in March last year, and that the popular British magazine GEMINI ceased publication last summer. On a more encouraging note, however, we learn that Gene Duplantier, of SAUCERS, SPACE AND SCIENCE fame, has now brought out a new magazine called SPACEDUST, among the contributors to which is the prominent ufo author Gray Barker. We haven't seen a copy of it yet, but if it is up to the high standard usually set by Gene's earlier publications, then SPACEDUST should be well worth reading. Interested readers should mail enquiries or orders to Gene Duplantier, Dept. UN, 17, Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2M 1X5.

Equally encouraging has been the emergence, in September last, of a new quarterly magazine called PHENOMENA, issued by a new research group based in South Wales called "Aerial Phenomena Research". This publication has already printed much interesting Welsh material, including revelatory new aspects of the famous Oliver Thomas affair of 1909. Copies are obtainable direct from Mr Frank Thomas, 186 Manor Way, Ty-Sign, Risca, Monmouthshire.

Also meriting wide support is the excellent periodical UFO SIGHTINGS NEWS-LETTER, produced by Janice M. Croy of 68 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80203, U.S.A.; likewise the magazine known as THE OHIO UFO REPORTER, which is edited by Bonita Roman of R.R. 3 Yankee Road, Middletown, Ohio 45042, U.S.A.

Other useful publications currently available are (a) the list of Canadian and United States ufo organizations presently active in North America, and (b) the list of 105 centres in those countries from which ufo photographs, books, and pamphlets may be purchased. Both these lists are issued by Bill Bemis, via P.O.Box 35, Versailles, Illinois 63278, for the very modest sum of two U.S. dollars or their equivalent in other currencies.

Two Book Reviews

A quick glance at the foregoing list of new ufo publications shows that it is impossible, in the space presently available, to review all of them in adequate detail, so the following paragraphs review just two books, of which neither, be it noted, appears in the series previously mentioned --- GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER and LOST WORLDS: SCIENTIFIC SECRETS OF THE ANCIENTS.

GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER, by R.L.Dione.
Corgi Books: 1973. U.K.price 30p.

On first acquaintance with this title one might be forgiven for thinking that this is yet another cultish, quasi-religious offering for those believing that angels fly ufos and visit strife-torn Earth for the benefit of individuals selected for receipt of the "higher message". Not a bit of it. Indeed, GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER is a book of rare interest, and, as far as this reviewer is concerned, ought probably to be read by everyone interested in the ufo enigma.

After briefly reviewing the general ufo field, which the author manages to cover in a remarkably succinct manner, he then proceeds to detailed considerations of the technology or technologies possibly, nay probably, underlying some of the more startling "mysteries" embodied within the Christian religion. Events such as the perplexing Fatima case of 1917 are examined in great detail and some exceedingly plausible explanations accounting for the observed facts and phenomena are presented. This plausibility is indeed one of the key notes of Mr Dione's book, and it is self-evident that his assertions and remarks relating to technical matters are well based.

One of the main arguments advanced in GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER is that God is not supernatural but rather supertechnological, and that in the past various manifestations of His technological prowess were regarded by a stupefied and awestricken humanity as divine or miraculous. The many miracles embedded in Christian teachings are shown as predictable effects of activities having a firm basis in technology or, as Mr Dione puts it, supertechnology. That supertechnology was created by and is manipulated by God or His representatives, and we, as human beings traditionally created in God's image or likeness, are part of a complex and immense experiment. Mr Dione advances cogent and rather disturbing reasons why God might, at any time, decide to terminate that experiment, and humanity along with it.

Although devoid of illustrations, graphs, an index and typographical errors, GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER is an immensely readable and absorbing book, and one which appears to make very considerable sense. For the first time, in this reviewer's opinion, the purely technical aspects of ufology are happily wedded to the religious and mystical elements already recognized by earlier writers. The present result is most refreshing.

LOST WORLDS: SCIENTIFIC SECRETS OF THE ANCIENTS, by Robert Charroux.
Souvenir Press: 1973. U.K. price £2.75p.

Originally published in France by Robert Laffont, English-only speaking readers will, with the present edition of this book, have the opportunity of absorbing the views and admonitions of Robert Charroux who, in France at least, is a veritable enfant terrible.

LOST WORLDS is a remarkable book, because it probes and discusses a truly huge range of subjects. Easter Island, the true meaning of the Apocalypse, Atlantis, the luminous rock of Ylo, the secrets of the Vatican, eroticism in history and religion, the mysteries of alchemy, and very many more. All of these are, in their own right, "lost worlds", hence the title of the book.

But of particular interest to ufologists, and the principal reason why LOST WORLDS is reviewed here, is Charroux's highly interesting section (Part IX in the book) on ufos, extraterrestrials, etc., presented collectively under the heading "Mysteries of the Skies".

Any book attempting to cover so much varied ground is bound to be remarkable, although the very range of the material discussed is (by its very breadth) unlikely to allow all subjects to receive adequate treatment. Thus, in this book, one is time and again left wanting to know more, much more! Yet, even that would be relatively acceptable if the instantly recognizable factual errors that have crept into the book (at translation stage ?) had been avoided. Taking for example items which the reviewer happens to know unusually well (but there are also many more), it is totally inaccurate to describe the late Harold T. Wilkins as an archaeologist (p.98). This reviewer happens to have known Wilkins personally, and can aver that he never actually visited South America, even though he knew a vast deal about that continent's prehistory. He certainly never conducted any field-work there, so Charroux's assertion that Wilkins discovered an "extraordinary monument" there (p.99) is as inaccurate as it is fanciful. It is of course true that Wilkins published two fascinating books on South American prehistory, but he never published one with the title "Introduction to the Mysteries of South America", as Charroux claims (p.99). As noted above, there are many other inaccuracies and inconsistencies in this book, not the least of which are the repeated references in the text to non-existent illustrations. There are, of course, many interesting illustrations elsewhere in the book, although these, most unfortunately, are poorly reproduced and generally detract from the book as a whole. These things are, to say the least, distinctly aggravating.

There are, furthermore, quite a number of needless typographical errors, which, with the absence of a bibliography and index, is a minus factor.

But the above shortcoming aside, LOST WORLDS is a wonderfully entertaining book, and one which, once started, it is difficult to lay down. Indeed, one can easily read well past bed-time. Certainly we should all be indebted to Mr Charroux for bringing together between two boards so many intriguing topics, even though a certain amount of caution needs to be exercised about accepting all the statements made, or at least about their factual accuracy. LOST WORLDS is well worth reading, and would make a marvellous gift.

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Founded 1964.

Research Headquarters: The Association has adopted Newchapel Observatory, a private astronomical observatory, as its research headquarters. Letters concerning research or visits should be addressed to: The Director of Research, BUFORA, Anthony Pace FRAS, Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.

BUFORA Journal: Dr John Cleary-Baker, who edited the quarterly journal since 1965, retired from this post in 1973. Editorial correspondence and exchange journals should be sent to the new editor, Norman Oliver: The Editor, BUFORA JOURNAL, Norman Oliver, 95 Taunton Road, London, SE.12.

London Lectures: These take place monthly on a Saturday evening, and feature distinguished speakers. They are well attended, and also provide an opportunity for members to meet socially. Programme cards for meetings, up to and including an illustrated lecture on 1st June 1974, are available upon request.

Membership: Open to all persons supporting the aims of the Association, subject to the approval of the executive committee. Reduced rates available for students and pensioners. Information leaflets from: The Publicity Secretary, BUFORA (A), Miss C.Henning, 99 Mayday Gardens, London, SE.3.
